

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 11 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS FEATURE US FUEL AIRLIFT. NYT' S
TREASTER REPORTS US OFFICIAL IN PP SAYS IT NOT MAJOR
LIFT LIKE BERLIN. WESTERN DIPLOMAT EXPRESSES AMAZEMENT
AND SAYS US GETTING INVOLVED DEEPER AND DEEPER. FREIDHEIM,
ACCORDING SUN' S CORDDRY, TRIED PUT LIFT IN CONTEXT OF
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US SUPPLY LINE IN WHICH C-130 S HAVE BEEN BRINGING
MILITARY SUPPLIES IN SINCE JULY 1972 UNDER " CONGRESSIONAL-

LY AUTHORIZED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM." TREASTER REPORTS WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN PP SAY MOST ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCES ARE KHMER, SUPPORTED 0 Y 5-6000 NVA ADVISERS (NOT INCLUDING NVA UNITS NEAR SVN BORDER). DIPLOMATS SAY NO MATTER WHAT HAIG SAID TO LON NOL, VERY FACT OF HIS VISIT REINFORCES IMPRESSION IN CAMBODIA THAT US TOTALLY BEHIND GKR.

2. CSM' S SAIKOWSKI WONDERS IF US TRYING REMOVE LON NOL, REPORTING INFORMED THINKING IN WASHINGTON THAT HAIG MISSION DESIGNED MORE THAN MERELY ASSESS KHMER SITUATION. BELIEVED HE WILL SEEK PERSUADE LON NOL THAT CHANGES NEEDED IF GKR / TO BE RESCUED FROM COLLAPSE./ LON NON SEEN AS " MAJOR FACTOR IN THE NATION' S DECLINE." US WOULD LIKE SIRIK MATAK BROUGHT INTO GKR. MEANWHILE, SIHANOUK " HAS EMERGED AGAIN TO HAUNT THE CONFUSING CAMBODIAN

POLITICAL SCENE." REGARDLESS OF HIS REPORTED RECENT VISIT TO CAMBODIA, ASIAN SPECIALISTS DON' T THINK SIHANOUK WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE LEADER TO KHMER BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH CHINESE AND NVN.

3. NYT' S BROWNETAKES ISSUE WITH IMPRESSION CREATED BY SOME FOREIGN NEWSMEN THAT PP IS BESIEGED AND ABOUT TO FALL. TRAVELING ALONG PARTS OF MAIN ROADS LEADING INTO CITY, HE FINDS TRAFFIC STILL PASSES REASONABLY FREELY AND CONCLUDES SITUATION IS " CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN APOCALYPTIC." TWO- MONTH SUPPLY OF RICE IN PP AND FOOD PLENTIFUL - AS IS TRAFFIC. FANK OFFICER TOLD BROWNE U. S. AIR STRIKES " ARE WHAT KEEP OUR TROOPS FIGHTING." ANOTHER PERSON, HOWEVER, SAID " BOMBERS MAY KILL SOME COMMUNISTS, BUT THEY KILL EVERYONE ELSE, TOO."

4. STAN CARTER (NYDN) 0 UILDS DISCUSSION OF INDOCHINA SITUATION AROUND ASST. SECRETARY GREEN' S APRIL 10 BRIEFING FOR OVERSEAS WRITERS CLUB. CARTER SEES DOUBTS CREEPING IN RE HANOI INTENTIONS WHILE OFFICIAL LINE REMAINS THAT HANOI WANTS PEACE. CARTER QUOTES GREEN' S " PERSONAL FEELING" THAT NVN PROBABLY DECIDED TRY UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL ROUTE, BUT NOTES THAT " SOME HIGH OFFICIALS" WATCHING CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS FEEL THEY DUPED BY HANOI. CITES RICHARDSON BLAMING CAMBODIA WAR ON CONTINUING SHIPMENTS OF SOVIET AND CHINESE SUPPLIES VIA NVN, AND NOTES IN THIS CONTEXT GREEN' S REMARK THAT " IF JUST THE KHMERS WERE INVOLVED, I THINK THAT BY NOW WE WOULD HAVE HAD AN AGREEMENT."

5. POST' S GREENWAY IN PP REPORTS MILITARY FUEL NEEDS

TO GET HIGHEST PRIORITY, WITH REQUIREMENTS OF CITY' S WATER PUMPS AND POWER STATIONS GETTING SECOND AND THIRD PRIORITIES. JAPANESE EMBASSY DEPENDENTS LEAVE. GREEN-WAY ASSERTS ALSO THAT THERE ARE NO AMERICAN DEPENDENTS IN PP. " ON OCT. 1, THE US EMBASSY EVACUATED ALL WIVES AND CHILDREN."

6. RICHARDSON TELLS NEWSMEN AFTER CLOSED HASC MEETING THAT FLOW OF SOVIET AND CHINESE ARMS THROUGH NVN WILL DETERMINE IN LARGE PART HOW LONG FIGHTING CONTINUES IN CAMBODIA. TWO COUNTRIES, HE SAYS, " COULD UNQUESTIONABLY EXERT INFLUENCE" OVER AMOUNT OF WEAPONS COMING IN. SIHANOUK IN HANOI SAYS KHMER INSURGENTS RECEIVED ENOUGH ARMS FROM TWO COUNTRIES BEFORE JANUARY 27 " TO CARRY ON OUR ARMED STRUGGLE ALL BY OURSELVES UNTIL 1975." RICHARDSON ASSESSES SITUATION AS " SOMEWHAT IMPROVED" (WP). EAGLETON COMPLAINS IN SFRC MEETING

ADMIN AVOIDING " TROUBLESOME QUESTIONS" ABOUT BOMBING AUTHORITY.

7. INTERIOR MINISTER PHENG PHONGSAVAN SAYS COALITION CABINET WILL BE FORMED IN LAOS WITHIN MONTH. CABINET POSTS FOR PL REPORTEDLY TO INCLUDE HEALTH, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PUBLIC WORKS, INFORMATION AND ECONOMY (REUTER, NYT).

8. THOUSANDS LEFT- WING DEMONSTRATORS AGAINST THIEU CLASH WITH BONN POLICE AND DAMAGE CITY HALL. CITY NEARLY DESERTED BY GOVERNMENT LEADERS DURING VISIT. HEINEMANN ASKS THIEU PERMIT NEUTRAL OBSERVERS SEE HOW PRISONERS HELD IN SVN. THIEU REPORTEDLY TELLS FRG PRESIDENT THERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS: THOSE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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JAIL ARE EITHER CRIMINALS OR COMMUNISTS (NYT, SUN, NYDN).

9. REP. HEBERT SAYS HE WILL INTRODUCE PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT ANY US AID TO NVN; ALSO SAYS JUSTIFICATION FOR ADMIN' S \$1.3 BILLION SEA AID BILL IS " EITHER NEBULOUS OR NONEXISTENT" (WP, NYDN).

10. POST' S LIPPMAN, IN SAIGON, DESCRIBES BREAKING UP OF HIGH- LEVEL US MISSION POLICY TEAM AS US RELATIONS WITH RVN ENTER NEW PHASE. " THESE OFFICIALS ARE NOT BEING OUSTED OR SHIFTED AS PART OF ANY POLICY CHANGE DIRECTED BY WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE SIMPLY PUT IN THEIR TIME AND FINISHED THEIR JOBS AND ARE LEAVING IT FOR A NEW TEAM TO WAGE THE PEACE."

11. TON LE CHAN RANGER BASE TAKES ANOTHER 100 MORTAR

ROUNDS AS GVN REFUSES DISCUSS ANY OTHER C- F MATTER IN TPJMC UNTIL COMMUNIST SIEGE THERE ENDS (WP).

12. SEN. SCOTT CONFRONTS ANTIWAR GROUP SAYING, " POWS CARRY MORE WEIGHT WITH ME THAN YOU DO." " FRIENDS" AND " CONCERNED CLERGY" REPS ASK ABOUT NVN DIKES AND SCOTT SAYS, " I THINK IT WAS A PROPAGANDA DEVICE, PURE AND SIMPLE, A COMMUNIST LIE." WHEN TOLD HE SHOULD " RE- EXAMINE SOME OF YOUR MORAL FUNDAMENTALS," SCOTT REPLIED, ; I DO NOT ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE MORE MORAL THAN I AM OR MORE MORALLY RIGHT THAN I AM" (PHINQ).

13. IN WILLIAM AND MARY DEBATE WITH EX- POWS, RAMSEY CLARK, ASKED ABOUT FONDA ALLEGATIONS THAT POWS ARE LIARS AND HYPOCRITES, REPLIED, " I HAVEN' T TALKED WITH ANY PRISONERS WHO SAY THEY WERE TORTURED." POWS TOLD HIM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, " YOUR EFFORTS IN THE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT IN NO WAY HELPED US. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

WERE WAITING FOR IT. THEY THREW IT AT US" (S- N, 4/10).

14. MICHAEL MORROW, OF DISPATCH NEWS SERVICE, CHARGES USAF PERSONNEL " BRUTALLY" ASSAULTED HIM WHEN HE TRIED TO SEE GEN. VOGT FOR ALREADY- CLEARED INTERVIEW. BANGKOK PAPER QUOTES MURROW SAYING: / I WAS CAPTURED BY THE VC IN 1970 AND THEY GAVE ME BETTER TREATMENT" (WP).
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15. MAX WALSH (CSM), CANBERRA, SEES NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT " VICTIM OF ITS OWN RHETORIC" AS IT SUFFERS " EMBARRASSING" STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS FROM USSR, YUGOSLAVIA, N. KOREA, NVN AND VC.

16. RADCLIFFE (WP) REPORTS NIXON DINNER FOR LEE KUAN YEW LAST NIGHT. NOTES LEE, IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO VN C- F, PRAISED PRESIDENT' S TENACITY AND " HOPEFUL RESULTS THAT EMERGED."

17. LATIMES (APRIL 10) TAKES OCCASION OF GEN. HAIG' S TRIP TO " SURVEY THE SHAMBLES OF INDOCHINA" TO EXPRESS VIEW THAT " CAMBODIA IS NO MORE WASHINGTON' S BUSINESS THAN VN WAS." CRITICIZES RICHARDSON' S OPINION THAT PRESIDENT HAS " RESIDUE" POWERS TO PROSECUTE WAR IN CAMBODIA, AND PRESIDENT FOR RESERVING RIGHT TO MOVE FORCES (IN THIS CASE BOMBER PILOTS) INTO ANY AREA AND THEREAFTER TAKE WHATEVER " VIGOROUS" ACTION HE BELIEVES NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM.

18. NYDN, REFERRING TO COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON ICCS HELICOPTERS, SAYS, " WE TRUST OUR GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO REPLY WITH MORE THAN INDIGNANT PROTESTS. ARMED

ESCORTS, OR EVEN RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES, WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE."

19. PHINQ VIEWS AIRLIFT TO PP AS " CHILLING PROSPECT" THAT RAISES QUESTION WHETHER WE REALLY LEARNED ANYTHING IN VN. HAVING JUST EXTRICATED ITSELF FROM ONEQUAGMIRE, LAST THING AMERICA NEEDS IS TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN ANOTHER.

20. CSM SAYS AMERICAN SOLUTION TO CAMBODIAN PROBLEM MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. CONJECTURES THAT SINCE SIHANOUK IS NOT REALLY TRUSTED BY ANY OUTSIDE INFLUENCES WHICH BEAR UPON CAMBODIA, AND SINCE BEST THING FOR SEA WOULD BE SETTLEMENT WHICH DID NOT LEAVE ANY ONE FOREIGN COUNTRY IN DOMINANT INFLUENCE POSITION, SIHANOUK COULD BE BACK IN PP SIX MONTHS FROM NOW.

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21. SUN PUBLISHES TORONTO STAR EDITORIAL DEALING WITH POW TORTURE STORIES. EDITORIAL SAYS UNTIL NOW, THANKS TO SUCCESSION OF " GULLIBLE TRAVELLERS" TO HANOI, IT HAD ALL LOOKED LIKE CONTEST BETWEEN EVIL AND VIRTUE, BETWEEN BLOODY- HANDED AMERICANS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON ONE SIDE AND HUMANE AND JUST NORTHERNERS ON THE OTHER. THEIR HEART- RENDING STORIES OF NVN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS BOMBED AND TALES OF HOW WELL CAPTURED AMERICANS WERE TREATED, HELPED MISGUIDE AND INFLAME PUBLIC OPINION IN WEST, PRECISELY AS HANOI DESIRED. TURNS OUT DIRTY ON BOTH SIDES - BUT THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE. WESTERN INSTITUTIONS EXPOSED MY LAI. HAS BEEN - AND CAN BE - NO SUCH RESTRAINT OR SAFEGUARD IN ANY COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP.

22. VON HOFFMAN (WP) WAXES LIQUID OVER AMBASSADOR PHUONG' S RECEPTION FOR THIEU. NOTES THAT THIEU HAD LARGE ENTOURAGE: HIS OWN SECRET SERVICE; HIS WIFE; HIS FINANCE MINISTER, WHOM AMERICANS USED TO DESCRIBE AS A " CLEVER LITTLE BUGGER" BECAUSE HE SPOKE ENGLISH; HIS NEPHEW, HOANG DUC NHA, WHOSE MOTHER IS BIG RICE MERCHANT IN NHATRANG. PRESENT ALSO WAS FAMOUS COUNTER- INSURGENT ED LANSDALE, WHO POURED SAND IN GAS TANKS OF HANOI' S MUNICIPAL BUSES AFTER 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENT WHEN ANTICOMMUNISTS WENT SOUTH. FOXY- LOOKING WESTMORE- LAND WAS ALSO PRESENT, AS WAS ROBERT KOMER, A " CHAP WHO MADE MANY A YALLER- SKIN BITE THE DUST." SO ALSO WAS AMBASSADOR BUNKER, AND THAT COMBATIVE OLD DIVINE, RARL MCINTIRE. ROGERS

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